

February 4, 2008:

Judi Lazenby, President of California Grand Jurors' Association (CGJA) a statewide organization of veteran and current grand jurors, announces that Governor Schwarzenegger has issued an Official Proclamation designating the entire month of February as GRAND JURY AWARENESS month.

In furtherance of its mission to educate the public on the valuable work that grand juries do throughout California functioning as a civil watchdog over local governments, CGJA had petitioned for an Official Proclamation to set aside February as the month to emphasize Grand Jury awareness.

California's independent grand jury is a powerful volunteer, fact finding body with the potential to recommend constructive change in local government, and actually make a difference.

This proclamation is a fitting tribute to citizens who have served in their local grand juries and to the important achievements these juries have accomplished.

For the month of February and beyond, all Californians are challenged to become more familiar with this unique system, and to volunteer to serve on their local juries. These grand juries are among the oldest, most respected, and most powerful civil institutions. Grand jury service promises volunteers unique exceptional benefits which include the following rewards:

A significantly enhanced understanding of local governments

A meaningful and significant say in local government through published reports of investigative findings, and

A renewed faith in the power of Citizen Democracy to make a difference

To quote Margaret Meade, "*A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that has.*"

Following is the text of that Official Proclamation:

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

PROCLAMATION

Grand juries are crucial components of California's justice system. Like trial juries, they rely on the participation of citizens to function efficiently and justly. Unlike trial juries, they are used at the beginning of the investigation process. In our state, grand juries serve three important areas; they determine whether a criminal act has been committed and if there is enough evidence to charge a person with that crime; they reserve the power to accuse public officials of impropriety; and they have the civil jurisdiction to oversee local governments.

Every county in California has a grand jury made up of individuals who have been recommended by the county's Superior Court. They are sworn in by a Superior Court judge and dedicate their time for a full calendar year to the grand jury. Thanks to their commitment and hard work, grand juries help our justice system give the accused equal treatment under the law and ensure that our local governments are operating legally.

Our state's grand juries continue to serve our counties because of the many people who volunteer their time to become highly qualified grand jurors. This month, I thank the present and past grand jurors for their devotion to California, and I encourage all citizens to consider becoming part of our grand jury system.

NOW THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim February 2008, as "California Grand Jury Awareness Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 31st day of January 2008.

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California**

**Great Seal of
California**

**ATTEST:
Debra Bowen
Secretary of State**